

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,602,916 to Grube et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,146,506 to Hannah et al.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 and cancelled claim 20. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to include some limitations of previous claim 2. Specifically, a message used to control a change in encryption levels is both encrypted and authenticated. Applicant asserts that this feature is not taught in either Grube et al. or Hannah et al.

Assuming that Grube et al. do teach an encrypted message in column 4, lines 7-20, Grube et al. fail to teach this message also being authenticated. Thus, the combination of Grube et al. and Hannah et al. does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1.

In addition, the combination of Grube et al. and Hannah et al. does not arrive at the claimed invention. Hannah et al. teach only one signal, the tap selection signal 136, as the one that changes encryption levels. However, this tap selection signal 136 is not encrypted nor is authenticated.

In addition, the Examiner is ignoring the fact that claim 1 treats the first indicator and the second indicator differently. More specifically, the first indicator is the only data needed to cause the claimed method to operate at the higher security level while both the second indicator and the encrypted/authenticated message are BOTH used to cause the

method to operate at the lower security level. Hannah et al.'s tap selection signal 136 cannot be both an indicator and an encrypted/authenticated message.

Claims not specifically mentioned above are allowable due to their dependence on an allowed base claim.

CONCLUSION

No fees are due for this Amendment beyond the fees for a Petition for a 2 Month Extension of Time. However, the Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or underpayments of fees (including fees for petitions for extensions of time) under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 to account number 502117. Any overpayments should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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____September 20, 2007____
Date